

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 00972 172300Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 OES-06 FEA-01 INT-05
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 SSO-00
INRE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 COME-00 FPC-01 /067 W
-----172322Z 094616 /72-62

O R 172232Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4365
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
OSDISA WASHDC
FAC ENG SUPPORT AGENCY FT BELVOIR
DAEN-FEZ- WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 0972

FROM AMBASSADOR

TO 11652 N/A
TAGS: SWEL, HA
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR USG ASSISTANCE TO RELIEVE DISASTER SITUATION
IN HAITI

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 0806

1. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE EXTREMELY CRITICAL ELECTRICAL
POWER SHORTAGE NOW AFFECTING PORT AU PRINCE AND AN URGENT
GOH REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE, I HAVE DETERMINED THAT
POTENTIAL EMERGENCY DISASTER SITUATION EXISTS IN HAITI AND
REQUEST ASSISTANCE AS OUTLINED BELOW FROM USG AGENCIES
CONCERNED.

2. CONTINUED LACK OF NORMAL RAINFALL OVER PAST THREE YEARS
HAS RESULTED IN LOWERING OF WATER LEVEL BEHIND PELIGRE
DAM, HAITI'S PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF HYDROELECTRIC POWER,
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TO POINT WHERE GENERATING PLANT WAS FORCED TO SHUT DOWN
MARCH 16. CONSEQUENTLY, ONLY SOME 7,500 KW POWER
FROM DIESEL GENERATORS, SOME OF WHICH ARE PRIVATELY
OWNED, ARE PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO HANDLE NORMAL DEMAND
LOAD OF 35,000 KW FOR PORT AU PRINCE.

3. PLANT FOR ADDITIONAL THERMAL GENERATING CAPACITY OF

21,000 KW PRESENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION WILL NOT BE IN OPERATION FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS. IN VIEW PRESENT SITUATION GOH HAS TAKEN EMERGENCY ACTION TO PROCURE FIVE GENERATING UNITS OF 2,000 KW EACH, BUT THESE UNITS WILL NOT BE IN OPERATION FOR THREE-FOUR WEEKS, AND EVEN THEN WILL ONLY PARTIALLY RESOLVE PROBLEM.

4. PRESENT LACK OF POWER IS CAUSING SEVERE HARDSHIP TO POPULATION DUE TO DEPENDENCE ON PUMPED WATER SUPPLIES. CITY HOSPITALS LACK STANDBY POWER AND ARE WITHOUT POWER DURING LONG PERIODS OF TIME. SHORTAGE OF WATER COUPLED WITH DENSITY OF POPULATION IN PORT AU PRINCE INCREASES GREATLY THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTAMINATION OF WATER SOURCES AND RISK OF EPIDEMICS.

THERE IS REQUIREMENT FOR IMMEDIATE AUGMENTATION OF VERY LIMITED ELECTRICAL GENERATING CAPABILITY IN PORT AU PRINCE TO MEET MINIMUM NEEDS. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE FACILITY ENGINEERING SUPPORT AGENCY OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ARMY IS ASSISTING DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN MEETING SIMILAR CRISIS AND THAT THIS AGENCY HAS CAPABILITY TO AIRLIFT GENERATING EQUIPMENT ON VERY SHORT NOTICE.

6. I CONSIDER IT IN BEST INTERESTS OF U.S. GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST HAITI IN RESOLVING THEIR PRESENT CRISIS AND, THEREFORE, REQUEST THAT NECESSARY ACTION TO TAKEN TO EXPEDITE THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY TO HAITI OF AS MANY GENERATING UNITS AS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE.

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7. LARGE SELF-CONTAINED GENERATING PLANTS (750-1000 KW) ARE PREFERRED IF AVAILABLE AND WOULD BE TIED INTO THE GENERAL DISTRIBUTION NETWORK. THESE LARGE UNITS COULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY THREE TO SIX SMALLER (150-250 KW) UNITS, WHICH WOULD BE USED TO SUPPLY CRITICAL FACILITIES, I.E., HOSPITALS, WATER PUMPING STATIONS. THERE ARE TWO PRINCIPAL PRIMARY VOLTAGE SYSTEMS USED IN PORT AU PRINCE. SOME CIRCUITS ARE 24000 VOLT, 3 WIRE DELTA, OTHERS ARE 7200/12, 470 VOLT IN Y CONFIGURATION. SECONDARY VOLTAGES ARE 60 CYCLE-110/220 VOLT.

8. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.
ISHAM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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